

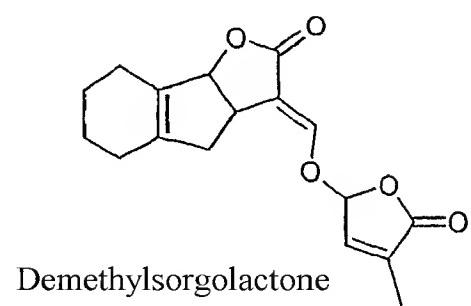
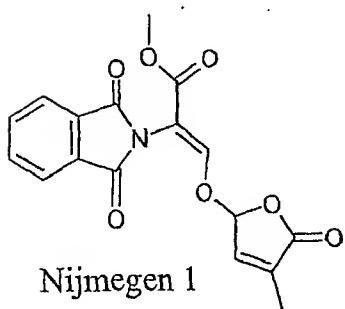
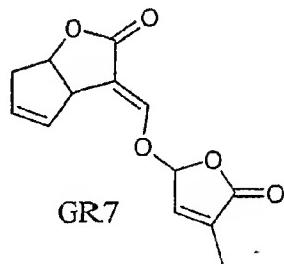
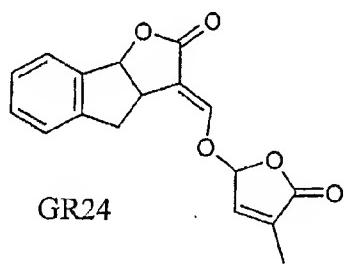
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

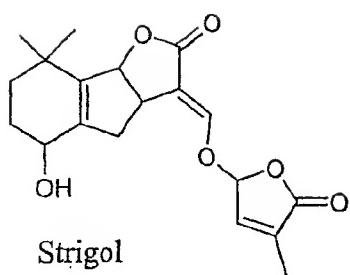
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

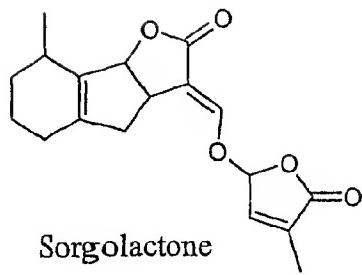
1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method of treating arbuscular  
mycorrhiza mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, comprising contacting said AM  
fungi with at least one stimulating agent in at least an amount  
that is suitable for stimulating the development and/or growth of  
said AM fungi, said stimulating agent having a structure selected  
from:

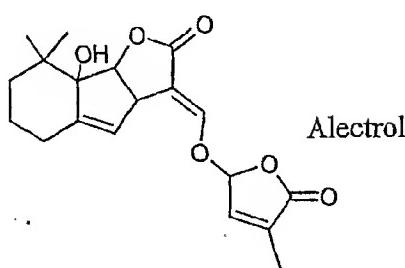




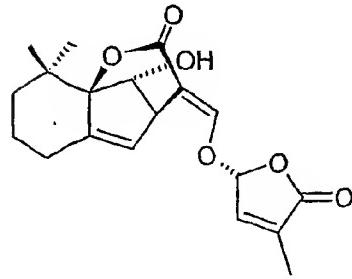
Strigol



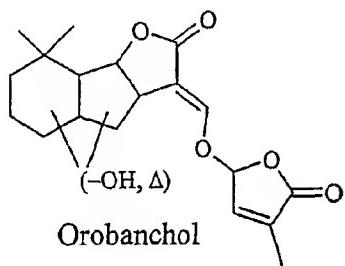
Sorgolactone



Alectrol



and



Orobanchol

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said method is carried out on AM fungi in the form of spores.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said method is carried out on mycorrhized root fragments.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment of the AM fungi is carried out

in the presence of living host plant material, corresponding, at least partly, to a constitutive root part of a plant capable of forming a symbiosis with AM fungi.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment is carried out in an aseptic medium *in vitro*.

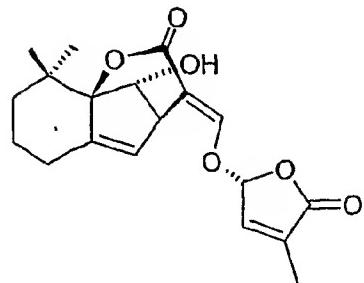
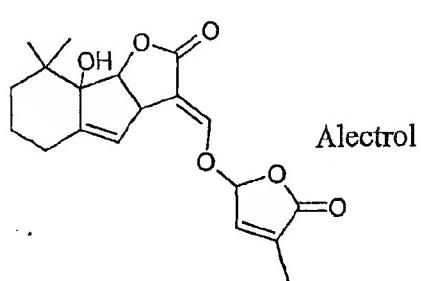
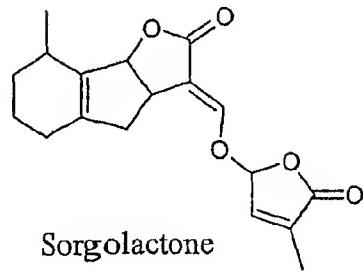
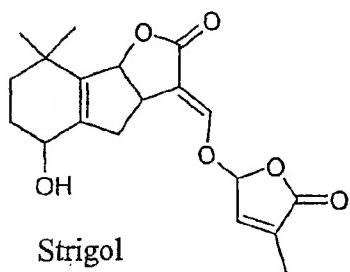
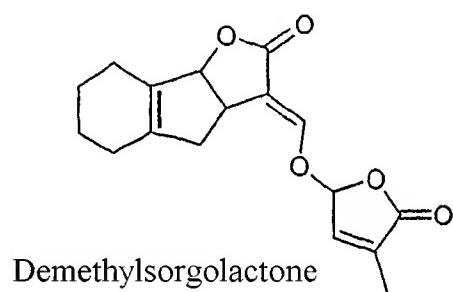
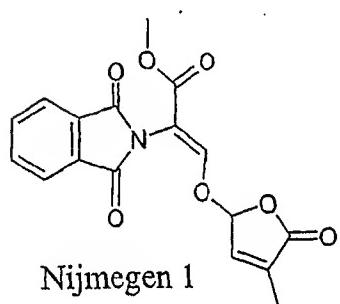
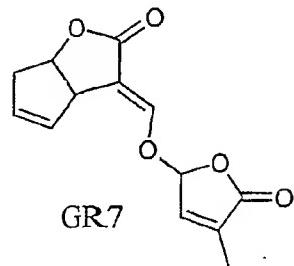
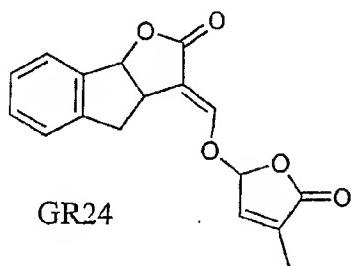
28. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment is carried out on at least one whole host plant cultivated in a pot.

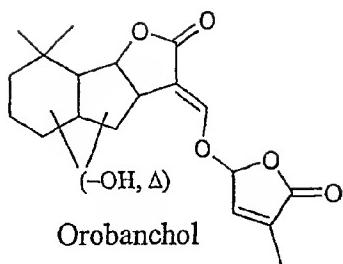
29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said treatment is carried out on at least one whole host plant cultivated in the field.

30. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein said AM fungi is selected from *Glomus intraradices* and *Gigaspora rosea*.

31. (withdrawn) A method of producing inoculum of arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, comprising preparing a co-culture of AM fungi in the presence of living host plant material, corresponding, at least partly, to a constitutive root part of a plant capable of forming a symbiosis with AM fungi, and

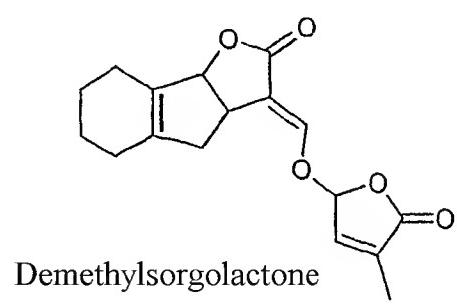
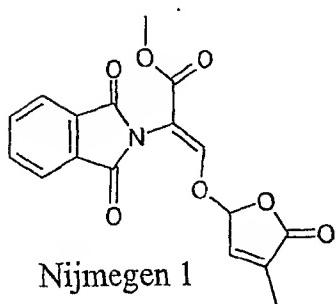
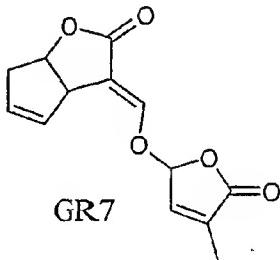
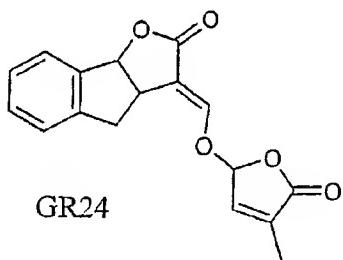
bringing said co-culture into contact with at least one stimulating agent in at least an amount that is suitable for stimulating the development and/or growth of said AM fungi, said stimulating agent having a structure selected from:

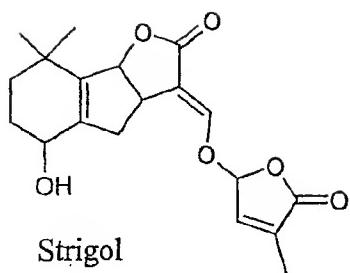




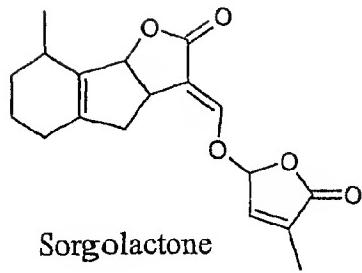
32. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 31,  
wherein the AM fungi are treated with said co-culture.

33. (withdrawn) A method of cultivating a host plant capable of forming a symbiosis with arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi, comprising adding to a cultivation soil at least one stimulating agent for stimulating the development and/or growth of AM fungi, wherein said stimulating agent is selected from:

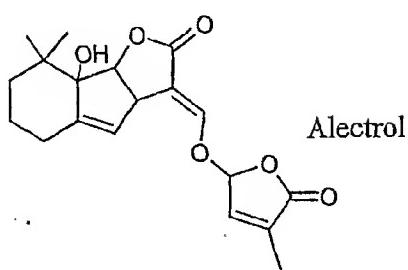




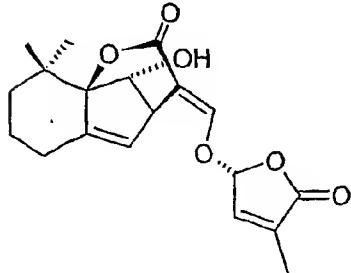
Strigol



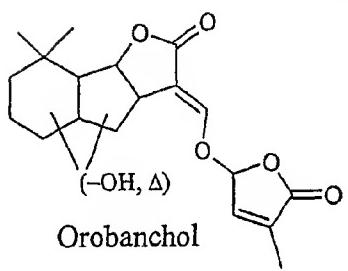
Sorgolactone



Alectrol



and



Orobanchol

and the stimulating agent is added at the time of sowing of the seeds of the host plant that is to be cultivated and/or subsequently to said sowing.

34. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the host plant is cultivated in a greenhouse.

35. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the host plant is cultivated in the field.

36. (withdrawn) The method according to claim 33, wherein said AM fungi are naturally present in said cultivation soil.

37. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said cultivation soil is supplemented with AM fungi.

38. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said stimulating agents are added repeatedly.

39. (withdrawn) A composition comprising, in combination, a quantity of seeds of a host plant capable of forming a symbiosis with AM fungi, and a quantity of stimulating agent for stimulating the development and/or growth of AM fungi, wherein said stimulating agent is selected from: GR24, GR7, Nijmegen-1, demethylsorgolactone, strigol, alectrol, sorgolactone, and orobanchol.

40. (withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 39, wherein said composition is formulated so as to form a coating by means of a material capable of disintegrating on contact with a solvent.

41. (withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 39, further comprising a quantity of AM fungus inoculum.

42. (withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 41, wherein the AM fungus inoculum is inoculum of AM fungi selected from: *Glomus intraradices* and *Gigaspora rosea*.

43. (withdrawn) A composition comprising, in combination, a quantity of AM fungus inoculum and a quantity of stimulating agent for stimulating the development and/or growth of AM fungi, wherein the stimulating agent is selected from: GR24, GR7, Nijmegen-1, demethylsorgolactone, strigol, alectrol, sorgolactone, and orobanchol.

44. (withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 43, wherein said composition is formulated so as to form a coating by means of a material capable of disintegrating on contact with a solvent.

45. (new) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the stimulating agent is GR24 or GR7.